



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Pamela Rucker Demonstrates Free-Motion Quilted Baby Quilts, Bibs at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, May 3, Pamela Rucker, of Lancaster, will demonstrate how she creates baby bibs and quilts using a free-motion quilting technique, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Rucker grew up surrounded by the creative activity and influence of her parents. Her father, Gerald Cooper, is a well-known Berea woodcarver and wood turner, and her mother, Joyce Cooper, was a well-known fiber artist specializing in weaving and machine quilting. Following her mother's teaching, Rucker learned to sew as a young girl.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and English at Hanover College in Indiana, Rucker went on to earn her divinity degree from the Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, following her father's footsteps into the ministry.

After settling into the ministry, Rucker once again began sewing. She recently inherited her mother's vast collection of fabrics and has begun sewing a variety of items, creating a variety of liturgical items as well as baby quilts and bibs.

Rucker will be demonstrating free-motion quilting technique, where the quilt sandwich is manually fed by hand through the sewing machine and underneath the needle. The feed dogs, which are the gripping teeth underneath the needle that move the fabric through the machine, are lowered, causing them to no longer push the fabric through the machine. This allows the quilt to be moved freely in all directions while quilting.

Quilted works by Rucker are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display include "Repurposed & Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans," through Sept. 6; and on display in the lobby, "Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration," through July 6. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.